



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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CONTENTS

19 April 1996

CENTRAL AFRICA

Central African Republic

Central African Republic: Shots Heard 'Around' Presidential Palace [AFP]	1
Central African Republic: Defense Minister Addresses Mutinying Soldiers [Bangui Radio]	1
Central African Republic: France 'Closely Monitoring' Situation [AFP]	1
Central African Republic: Presidential Guard 'Controlling' Situation [London International]	2
Central African Republic: Air France Plane Grounded at Bangui Airport [AFP]	2
Central African Republic: Face-off Continues; Radios Cease Broadcasts [AFP]	2
Central African Republic: Standoff Continues in Bangui; 15 Wounded [Libreville Radio]	3

Chad

Chad: Opposition Groups Denounce Constitutional Referendum Result [Paris International]	3
Chad: Transitional Prime Minister Resigns as Scheduled [Njamena Radio]	3
Chad: Electoral Commission Sets Presidential Candidacy Conditions [Njamena Radio]	3

Gabon

Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Begins State Visit 17 Apr [Niamey Radio]	4
Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Views Country's Electoral Timetable [Paris International]	4
Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Announces Elections for 7 Jul, Leaves Gabon [AFP]	5
Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Returns From Gabonese Visit; Bongo Lauds Niger [Niamey Radio]	5

EAST AFRICA

Eritrea

Eritrea: Foreign Minister Denies Army Attack on Djibouti [Voice of the Broad Masses]	7
--	---

Tanzania

Tanzania: President Returns From Mozambique, Malawi [Dar es Salaam Radio]	7
---	---

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa: Mandela Defends Ties to al-Qadhdhafi, Cuba [Johannesburg TV]	8
South Africa: Israeli Attack on UN Base in Lebanon Condemned [SAPA]	8
South Africa: Negotiators Reach Agreement on Bill for Constitution [SAPA]	8
South Africa: De Klerk Campaigns for National Party in Durban [SAPA]	9
South Africa: ANC's Zuma Explains Call for Elections Delay [NEW NATION 19 Apr]	10
South Africa: 'Tensions' Reported Between Parliamentary Committee, SANDF [CAPE TIMES 16 Apr]	12
South Africa: Officials Declare RDP 'on Course' [THE STAR 18 Apr]	12
South Africa: Budget Deficit Prediction Revised Downwards [SAPA]	13
South African Press Review for 19 Apr [BEELD 17 Apr, etc.]	13

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Botswana

Botswana: Military Chief Concerned About South African Situation [SAPA]	15
---	----

Botswana: Defense Force Shopping List From Netherlands Army Noted [MMEGI 5-11 Apr]	15
Botswana: Minister Says Country To Continue Beef Sales to UK [Gaborone Radio]	16
Botswana: Bank Officials Call Country Economic 'Success Story' [SAPA]	16
Botswana: Government Criticized for Politicizing Civil Service [MMEGI 29 Mar-4 Apr]	16
Botswana: Skepticism Expressed Over Healing of Rift in Ruling Party [MMEGI 29 Mar-4 Apr]	17
Botswana: Staff Shortage Puts Police in Prosecutors' Jobs [MMEGI 29 Mar-4 Apr]	18
Botswana: Document Notes Shift in State Dealings With Private Press [THE MIDWEEK SUN 27 Mar]	18

Malawi

Malawi: Tanzanian President Urges Stability in Southern Africa [Blantyre Radio]	19
---	----

Mozambique

Mozambique: Government Obtains \$881 Million From Donors in Paris [Maputo Radio]	19
Mozambique: Official Discusses Proposals Made in Paris Meeting [Maputo Radio]	20
Mozambique: Publication Assesses Economic Recovery Program [IMPARCIAL 16 Apr]	20

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Mugabe Addresses 16th Independence Anniversary Gathering [Harare Radio]	21
Zimbabwe: Mugabe Plans 'To Liberalize' Economy To Attract Investment [Harare Radio]	21
Zimbabwe: Government Attempts To Seize White-Owned Land [SAPA]	22
Zimbabwe: ZANU-PF 'Determined' To Destroy Economy [THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE 11 Apr]	22

WEST AFRICA

Benin

Benin: New Prime Minister Outlines Government's Priorities [Paris International]	25
Benin: President Kerekou Meets With Mauritanian Defense Minister [Cotonou Radio]	25

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: Chad's Kebzabo on Plans To Beat Deby at Elections [FRATERNITE MATIN 16 Apr]	26
--	----

Liberia

Liberia: Koromah Says Agreement Reached With ECOMOG To Deploy Forces [London International]	27
Liberia: Koromah Admits Followers Involved in Looting [London International]	27

Mali

Mali: Government Spokesman on Extradition of Guinean Mutineer [Bamako Radio]	28
--	----

Niger

Niger: CSN Head Issues Draft Decrees; Referendum Slated for 12 May [Niamey Radio]	29
---	----

Nigeria

Nigeria: Beninese President Arrives for Talks With General Abacha [Lagos Radio]	29
Nigeria: Abacha, Kerekou To Open Border, View Liberia, Other Issues [Lagos TV]	29
Nigeria: Ethnic Clashes Reportedly Leave 80 Dead in Northeast [London International]	30
Nigeria: Rivers State Head Denies Critics Abducted During UN Mission [Lagos Radio]	30

Central African Republic

Central African Republic: Shots Heard 'Around' Presidential Palace

*AB1804180396 Paris AFP in French
1650 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 18 Apr (AFP) — About 100 Central African soldiers mutinied in Bangui this afternoon to demand the payment of three months of salary arrears, according to a journalist of the radio and television station.

They have besieged the radio and television station building, where Defense Minister Jean Mette-Yapende and General Alphonse Gombadi, chief of CAR Armed Forces defense staff, are at present. The soldiers also exchanged fire with elements from the presidential security forces.

Military patrols are going around the city in search of mutineers some of whom are riding in vehicles. Other shots were heard around the presidential palace, eyewitnesses point out. The streets of the capital emptied after the first gunshots, and inhabitants are staying indoors.

In a radio broadcast, the defense minister called on "officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers from various units of the CAR Armed Forces to return to their barracks," by assuring them that "their grievances are being considered by President Ange-Felix Patasse and instructions have been given to pay masters to work out salaries and present them to the Pay Master General for a solution."

Reliable sources indicate that Gen. Gombadi, on his part, has ordered loyal soldiers to open fire without any warning on any mutineer soldier or any person who covers his face with a hood. Some soldiers covered their faces with hoods in order not to be recognized.

The agitation started in the morning with demonstrations, as it is often the case in the capital with civil servants demanding their salary arrears. They tried to enter the premises of the radio station to have their grievances read on the radio.

Because of shortage of cash at the Public Treasury, civil servants are not paid regularly and most of them are owed salary arrears.

Central African Republic: Defense Minister Addresses Mutinying Soldiers

*AB1804185496 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television
Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the violence perpetrated by the police demanding several months wage arrears, it was today the turn of the Central African

Armed Forces to demand three-month wage arrears. The soldiers left their barracks today to demonstrate their discontent. So far, no concrete solution has been found. Here is the statement made by Defense Minister Jean Mette-Yapende asking the soldiers to return to their barracks:

[Begin Mette-Yapende] Officers, other ranks, [words indistinct], support services, [words indistinct], fire service battalion, and others. It is I, Jean Mette-Yapende, your minister, who is addressing you. This day, 18 April 1996, you have decided to take to the streets to demand your rights — your salaries. However, military rules and regulations do not allow such an action. You have chosen this option to make your demands, but there is a great risk that ill-intentioned elements may take advantage of your action to achieve other ends.

Informed of your action, the head of state and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has decided to handle the situation himself. He has therefore ordered me to ask you to go back to your barracks as soon as possible. National defense directors have already been summoned to the directorate general so as to prepare the necessary salary vouchers. The treasurer general and his team have already been commandeered for the payment of all your wage arrears. I am also asking you, as usual — and you have never disappointed me — to respond promptly to this appeal. [end recording]

Central African Republic: France 'Closely Monitoring' Situation

*AB1804223696 Paris AFP in French
2153 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 18 Apr (AFP) — France is "closely monitoring" the situation in Bangui where about 100 soldiers mutinied today to demand payment of wage arrears, the Foreign Ministry stated. "French nationals are safe" and "French troops stationed in Bangui are ensuring security at the airport," the ministry stated in a communique sent to AFP.

About 100 Central African soldiers mutinied in the afternoon and laid a two-hour siege to the national radio station in Bangui, where the defense minister and the chief of defense staff happened to be.

**Central African Republic: Presidential Guard
'Controlling' Situation**

AB1904095596 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Network Africa" program; hosted by Max Bankole Jarrett]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Jarrett] Military police have been patrolling the streets of Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, after yesterday's mutiny by 200 soldiers. The mutineers, who were demanding four months' back pay, clashed with loyal government troops in the city streets before being repelled in a gun fight near the Presidential Palace. I asked Joseph Benamsse, our correspondent in Bangui, for the latest news:

[Begin recording] [Benamsse] The situation still remains tense and despite the call of the minister of defense, asking them to go back to barracks, it appears that they have not decided to go back to barracks so far.

[Jarrett] So is the government likely to pay these people their wages soon?

[Benamsse] This is what has been said yesterday afternoon because the minister of defense went through the national radio, calling on the mutineers to go back to barracks. He said that he will [word indistinct] to pay the salary by today.

[Jarrett] Who exactly are the mutineers loyal to politically? Is it a move against the president, Ange-Felix Patasse, or is purely a wage problem?

[Benamsse] It is purely a wage problem, but, you see, in politics....[pauses] The government is likely to politicize the movement because only two weeks ago, opposition had demonstrated in the capital, Bangui, calling on President Ange-Felix Patasse and his government to pay salaries, and right now, teachers are on strike just because of the salaries. Last week, the National Assembly also called the prime minister, asking him to pay salaries as soon as possible to cool down the social tension in the country. So, the government has many reasons to politicize the movement.

[Jarrett] Is there any fear that if these soldiers are not paid on time, they might take more drastic action?

[Benamsse] Drastic action — I don't know what you mean by drastic action. I don't know if you want to talk of a coup d'etat, but if you want to talk of the coup d'etat, I can tell you that it is too early, and it is too late. When I say that it is too early, I mean that the mutineers were only asking President Ange-Felix to pay their salaries, and when I say it is too late, I mean that the mutiny has taken too long, and

the situation has given enough time to the government to take preventive measures. Let me tell you that the mutineers have left their position around the national radio in the hands of the Presidential Guard, and now the Presidential Guard are scattered throughout the city, and they are controlling the situation. [end recording]

**Central African Republic: Air France Plane
Grounded at Bangui Airport**

AB1904125296 Paris AFP in French
1126 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 19 Apr (AFP) — An Air France company Boeing 747 aircraft has been grounded since yesterday at the Bangui airport because of a mutiny by Central African Republic soldiers, it was learned today from airport authorities. The aircraft arrived yesterday morning from Bangui via Libreville and was expected to leave for Paris via Libreville in the afternoon.

Because of shootings in the city and security directives given by foreign embassies to their nationals, the crew that was supposed to take over in Bangui as well as the company's local staff could not get to the airport and the flight was cancelled. The aircraft, according to reliable sources, is being guarded by the French Army which has a military base at the Bangui airport.

**Central African Republic: Face-off Continues;
Radios Cease Broadcasts**

AB1904133096 Paris AFP in French
1120 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 19 Apr (AFP) — Central African soldiers who embarked on a mutiny on 18 April to demand payment of salary arrears, took over the national radio after receiving reinforcement troops from other arms. They continue to occupy part of the capital, shooting in the air, it was learned late this morning, from a reliable source in Bangui.

However, the mutineers, according to witnesses, are staying away from strategic points protected by the presidential security forces, a unit that remained loyal to the government. The national radio has stopped transmitting.

The approximately 100 mutineers, who belong to the Joint Intervention Regiment, were joined last night by soldiers from their unit who came from Bouar, in the west of the country, and elements from the Territorial Operational Defense Regiment.

After a short lull very early this morning that enabled some people to go to work, the mutineers resumed their patrols throughout the city aboard vehicles requisitioned

from private citizens. They were shooting machine guns in the air. Late this morning, shops, offices, and gas stations remained closed and the streets were again deserted, with the exception of a few bystanders.

Loyal forces of the presidential guard have erected roadblocks at several points in the center of the city, especially, around the area of the presidency. The patrols of the mutinous soldiers sometime come close to these roadblocks, but there has been no exchange of gunshots. According to witnesses, the mutinous soldiers and the loyal forces only content themselves with "looking at each other with suspicion."

Early this morning, before the radio station stopped broadcasting around 0830 [0730 GMT], it only announced a short message in Sango — the main local language — from Interior Minister Thierry Kiangi calling on the public to remain calm. This has been the only message from the government since the appeal made yesterday afternoon by Defense Minister Jean Mette-Yapende to the mutinous soldiers urging them to return to their barracks.

Central African Republic: Standoff Continues in Bangui; 15 Wounded

AB1904155296 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Marcel Moukouapi, a journalist for the NOVATEUR daily reports on the situation in Bangui.

[Begin Moukouapi recording] This morning, according to reports, the pay master general was able to release the necessary money for the payment of soldiers' salaries, but the mutineers do not feel secure enough to go and collect their due. On the one hand, the Presidential Guard, which is occupying central Bangui cannot advance toward the working class districts, and on the other hand, the mutineers who are in the working class districts cannot go to central Bangui. Meanwhile, there is a standoff and there is need for a mediation, but we do not know if it is under way. Here and there, one sees mutineers moving in the working class districts, and at times shooting is heard.

There are 14 wounded persons at the community hospital, and a wounded woman, who was hit by a stray bullet, is lying at the Hopital de l'Amitie. [end recording]

Chad

Chad: Opposition Groups Denounce Constitutional Referendum Result

LD1804115096 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Chad, after the victory of the yes vote in the constitutional referendum of 31 March this year, 10 movements which are involved in military and political pursuits have denounced, I quote, "this electoral farce." They are demanding a new round table.

Chad: Transitional Prime Minister Resigns as Scheduled

AB1804224796 Ndjamena Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Djimasta Koibla, transitional prime minister and head of government, today submitted his government's resignation to President Idriss Deby. In his resignation letter to the head of state, the prime minister wrote the following, quote, the mission assigned to me was to provide the country with a constitution, thus putting an end to the transitional regime. In my opinion, since the mission assigned to me has come to an end, it was my duty to submit to you my resignation and that of the government I had the honor to head, endquote. The resigning prime minister has then expressed the hope that the new democratic era inaugurated on 1 December 1990 will continue in stability and peace. Prime Minister Koibla, who was elected by the Higher Transitional Council on 9 April 1995, assumed office on (?13) April.

Chad: Electoral Commission Sets Presidential Candidacy Conditions

AB1904114396 Ndjamena Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In compliance with Decree 193/PR/96 of 18 April on the procedures for the submission of presidential candidacies, the Independent National Electoral Commission wishes to inform candidates for the June presidential elections that the submission of candidacies begins on 19 April.

1. In accordance with the provisions of Law No. 004/PR/96 on the electoral code, the complete documents on candidacies should be submitted in duplicate to the Court of Appeal from 19 April to midnight on 27 April.

2. Special forms on the declaration of candidacy must be collected from the Court of Appeal, filled out and signed by the candidate.

3. The declaration of candidacy must include the following documents — a certificate of Chadian nationality to be collected from either the Ndjamena prefect or mayor, a birth certificate issued by the mayor or subprefect of a town, a medical certificate dating back at least three months, a police record bulletin No. 3 dating back at least three months, a receipt from the Treasury Department acknowledging payment of a 5-million-CFA franc deposit, and a certificate proving that a registered political party or a coalition of parties has endorsed the candidate in question as a presidential candidate. This condition does not concern independent candidates, who need to submit a declaration indicating that they wish to run as independent candidates.

Furthermore, the declaration of candidacy must include a certificate proving that the candidate has been living in the country for at least one year, and this must be issued by a mayor or subprefect of a town. The declaration must also include a certificate proving that the candidate meets the required eligibility conditions. [passage omitted]

Gabon

Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Begins State Visit 17 Apr

AB1704201496 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1200 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of state, Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, arrived this morning in Libreville, Gabon, for a 48-hour working and friendly visit. Details with our correspondent Adamou Oumarou:

[Begin Oumarou recording] President Omar Bongo, who was visibly very happy, warmly welcomed the Niger head of state in Libreville. Colonel Barre Mainassara paid a vibrant homage to President Bongo not only for his efforts to bring about concord and peace between African peoples, but also for the struggle he waged for a better trend in international relations. Talking about the series of measures adopted yesterday, notably the convocation of the electoral college in Gabon in view of the upcoming constitutional referendum, the Niger head of state said that this move gives new guarantees on President Bongo's good will towards the international community. Colonel Barre Mainassara, also said that his visit in Gabon was aimed at receiving advice and listening to the views of President Omar Bongo on Niger transition period.

So, his first visit in central Africa, the Niger head of state has chosen Gabon, a country that has always entertained excellent relations with Niger and especially on the political level. With this visit, the head of state will pursue and strengthen this cooperation. To achieve this,

the head of state will have to first of all, explain to the dean of central African heads of state, the reasons that led to the 27 January coup d'etat in Niger. Then, the Niger and Gabonese delegations will jointly examine the ways and means to boost bilateral cooperation. A cooperation that was never really active between the two countries.

Indeed, despite the existence of a global cooperation agreement and a joint commission for cooperation that exists since 1983, the Niger-Gabon cooperation remained just on good intentions level. And that was not for lack of fruitful fields of cooperation. For example, there is the mining field since the two countries are producers and exporters of uranium. Also, and this is an interesting fact, with the break out in Europe of the mad cow disease, Niger could open a market towards Gabon to export cattle and meat. As you can see, one man's joy is another man's sorrow. [end recording]

Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Views Country's Electoral Timetable

LD1804124096 Paris Radio France International
in French 0730 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On to Niger with an interview with the country's new strongman, Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, who is visiting Gabon where he is due to meet President Bongo.

Jean-Karim Fall, our correspondent in central Africa, assessed the situation [in Niger] with the man who masterminded the coup of 27 January this year.

Jean-Karim Fall asked the strongman of Niger how he reacted to the pressure exerted on Niger by the international community since the coup:

[Begin recording] [Mainassara] It is true that there was at the beginning a series, a deluge, of condemnation in principle which did not come as a surprise for us. However, little by little, thanks to the explanations and the various missions we sent, there has been much more understanding and most of the countries have agreed to take a softer line, while setting some conditions. On a number of occasions, we have been asked to review the [electoral] timetable, but we know that Niger has problems which are difficult to solve, and we have to take this concern into account.

[Fall] Does this mean that the review of the electoral timetable [constitutional referendum brought forward from 16 June to 12 May is a sign of goodwill toward the international community?

[Mainassara] It was especially intended for the international community. Indeed, when you speak with the peo-

ple of Niger, they are in no hurry to resume the democratic process. They would like some time to prepare it calmly but we are under no illusions, we know that we would run the risk of being isolated if we did not agree with a tighter deadline [for the electoral timetable], the risk of being deprived of international assistance and of the resumption of various projects, and that would be tragic for Niger.

[Fall] The Forum for Renewal which took place in Niamey recently suggested that a new constitution should be drafted. Don't you feel that this is a tailor-made suit?

[Mainassara] As far as I am concerned, following the events of 27 January, I stated that a presidential style of government would be ideal but I would like to point out that former President Mahamane Ousmane supported the idea of a presidential style of government during the national conference and this stance was also supported by Tandja Mamadou's followers at the forum, which goes to prove that it is not a suit tailor-made for me. In my humble opinion, quite simply, a presidential style of government is best suited for Niger, that's all, especially after the recent events.

[Fall] Will you be a candidate in the presidential elections?

[Mainassara] It is too early to tell. I will not make a secret of the fact that I have been approached and asked to run but it is too early for me to make a decision. It all depends on what happens in the near future.

[Fall] When the forum began in Niamey you made a very harsh and definite statement on the politicians of Niger. What do you blame them for exactly?

[Mainassara] Somehow, there was a coup because they had failed. Most people in Niger were disappointed by politicians. They were really waiting eagerly for this democratic experiment to be put to an end. We did not want any more of the scenes of endless conflicts and quarrels. It was necessary to issue a warning for the forum to be able to convene in a serene and calm atmosphere. [end recording]

Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Announces Elections for 7 Jul, Leaves Gabon

AB1804162196 Paris AFP in French
1233 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Libreville, 18 Apr (AFP) — The Niger head of state, Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, disclosed today in Libreville that the presidential election will take place in Niger on 7 July for the first round and a possible runoff for 28 July.

Colonel Mainassara who was taking part in the pan-African radio, Africa No.1 radio program, "An hour to convince," said that this date was fixed "with regard to reducing delays" in the establishment of new institutions.

The legislative election will take place after the rainy season, that is September-October, he added. Responding to a question on whether he will be a candidate or not, he said it was "too premature" to say anything about that. He said he has been "consulted on the issue by friends." He said he was thinking about it and that he will "make his answer known at the right time."

The Niger military government that came out of the 27 January coup d'etat, has already brought to 12 May the date of the constitutional referendum that was initially scheduled for 16 June in order to give assurance to the international community and resume relations with the financial backers. The financial backers had linked their aid to a return to democratic institutions.

The new Niger leader arrived on 17 April in Libreville for a 24-hour "working and friendly visit" to Gabon. He told the governmental daily L'UNION, that he came "to introduce himself to President Omar Bongo, a man full of experience and who worked for peace and concord between the peoples of Africa."

He left Libreville at noon for Niamey.

Gabon: Niger's Mainassara Returns From Gabonese Visit; Bongo Lauds Niger

AB1904092396 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, chairman of the National Salvation Council [CSN] and head of state, returned to Niamey this afternoon following a two-day friendly and working visit to Libreville, Gabon. Addressing the national press on the outcome of his Gabonese visit, the head of state said he took the opportunity of the visit to explain to President Omar Bongo, one of the eldest French-speaking African leaders, the reasons for the 27 January events as well as our country's political perspectives. The CSN chairman noted that the Gabonese president was prepared to contribute to promoting the new democratic renewal in our country. [passage omitted]

In an interview granted to our special reporters to Gabon and drawing the lessons of the Niger head of state's visit, Gabonese President Omar Bongo said, in particular, that he will defend Niger vis-a-vis the international community which has imposed an economic and financial embargo upon our country. The Gabonese president

said that, following the various talks held with Colonel Mainassara Barre, he was now better informed about the situation in Niger as well as the reasons for the 27 January events. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Bongo recording] As a matter of principle, I am against coups. However, one never knows what is actually happening on the ground. Now, my talks with my younger brother have led me to understand actually the reasons for what happened. How can you understand a situation where a president and his prime minister do not even greet each other and cannot see each other? They cannot work together. How can the government work in such a condition? It was time to put the house in order and this is what the colonel has done. He has given himself a short time to hand over power and this

was what I and the international community wanted. I will be an advocate of Niger's cause to ensure that the embargo imposed on it following the army take-over is lifted and I will do everything to ensure that Niger's voice is heard, now that we know presidential elections will happen in about two months. This is a giant step because we know that in some parts of the world, some people have taken power and continue to postpone elections year and after year. We understand now that there was a problem in Niger. The situation has now been corrected. An error in democratic life can be fatal for a country. So, we should congratulate Colonel Mainassara and all those assisting and supporting. [end recording]

Eritrea

Eritrea: Foreign Minister Denies Army Attack on Djibouti

EA1904111596 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Press statement by Eritrean Foreign Minister Petros Solomon on morning of 18 April; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The report which is said to have been disseminated by Reuters is false and has no truth whatsoever. I had left for Djibouti with a letter from President Isaias for President Hassan Gouled Aptidon yesterday. Some newspapers would like to undermine the good relations between the two countries. These papers have carried reports that Eritrea has taken some land from Djibouti territory. According to a joint agreement between Eritrea and Djibouti, a joint ministerial committee was supposed to meet in mid-March to enhance our mutual relationship. I went to Djibouti to discuss this and other issues with a letter [for President Aptidon].

According to the plan, a meeting was held with the foreign minister — I think it was at about 8:15 PM yesterday evening — and he started by saying that our army had carried out attacks against their army; they wanted to know about this issue and also why it had happened. I said that this cannot have happened. If it happened last night, then we cannot really confirm nor talk about it. On the one hand I came with a letter from my president, so I cannot see how an attack can be carried out on the other hand. Therefore, I want to know whether it was a shootout, an accidental shootout, or more likely a border incident between the two border armies. Otherwise, what attack are you talking about? I was told that it was an attack. If it is not incidental, then I cannot see how it can happen and I will seek clarification and give you a response.

Then we went to see President Hassan Gouled who, in addition to other issues, raised the matter and said he was concerned and asked why such an incident had occurred.

I said this incident could not have occurred and that as we arrived this morning, we could not state anything conclusively, but we would seek clarification from home

and answer. All the same, the Eritrean Government believes there is no problem we cannot solve and the content of the letter states the same. Therefore our objective is to solve whatever problems we might have through dialogue and discussion. [passage omitted]

Then we contacted the Eritrean Defense Ministry in Asmara by telephone and after verifying the issue, the ministry informed us that not a single bullet had been fired in the area. After we received confirmation from the Defense Ministry, we called the Djibouti Foreign Ministry spokesman and briefed him on the issue, because at the time the Djibouti cabinet was in a meeting. We told him that the accusations levelled against us yesterday were baseless. According to our information from Eritrea, there has never been any clash in Doumeira, there has been no shootout, and we are at a loss as to why we are accused. This is not a casual accusation and we want a speedy response to the issue. [passage omitted]

In short, therefore, there has never been any clash or incident in Doumeira. Eritrea has never fired a shot. We have never made any statement or a report to the effect that there has been an incident in the area. Hence, this issue is of utmost concern to us and we are seeking a speedy response from the Djibouti Government.

Tanzania

Tanzania: President Returns From Mozambique, Malawi

EA1804204196 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 1700 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Benjamin Mkapa has arrived back in the country after his five-day visit to Mozambique and Malawi. In Malawi, president Mkapa and President Bakili Muluzi issued a joint communique reviewing the activities of the two countries' permanent joint commission. The leaders said a meeting would be held in Tanzania within three months. In the communique, President Mkapa assured Malawi that Tanzania will continue to provide services for Malawi cargo at Dar es Salaam port. President Mkapa also said that Tanzania intended to establish an embassy in Malawi when the country's economy was more consolidated.

South Africa: Mandela Defends Ties to al-Qadhdhafi, Cuba

MB1904090896 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0500 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nelson Mandela says South Africa has the right to choose its friends and will not allow other countries to dictate this country's foreign policy. While attending a dinner with journalists at his presidential home in Pretoria last night, the president was asked about a controversial statement on South African support for the lifting of sanctions against Libya made during Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo's visit to Tripoli this week.

[Begin Mandela recording] As a result of the support of people like al-Qadhdhafi and Cuba we were able to conduct an effective struggle, the anti-apartheid struggle. Now when we win those who were working with our enemies are saying now: You must not have anything [to do] with al-Qadhdhafi and with Cuba. Nobody with morals could ever accept that. [end recording]

South Africa: Israeli Attack on UN Base in Lebanon Condemned

MB1804203696 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2011 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA April 18 SAPA — The South African government on Thursday condemned the attack by Israel on a United Nations base in Lebanon in which at least 94 people were killed.

In a statement, Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad said the government was "shocked and dismayed" to learn of the shelling on Thursday of the UN base, where hundreds of Lebanese had taken refuge from fighting. "This act, even if it was an accident, is an inevitable consequence of a policy of punishing people on the basis of collective responsibility," Pahad said.

The incident was particularly tragic in light of South Africa and the international community's call on the parties involved to speedily resolve the violence, he said. "South Africa once again appeals to all parties to exercise the utmost restraint and urgently to seek ways of peacefully resolving the current violence through negotiations."

The Israeli gunners' target was reportedly a few hundred metres away from the camp, from where Hizballah guerillas had fired rockets earlier. Many people were seriously injured and the death toll was expected to rise.

South Africa: Negotiators Reach Agreement on Bill for Constitution

MB1904052796 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0510 GMT 19 Apr 96

[Report by Dirk van Zyl and Eleanor Momberg]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 19 SAPA — Constitutional negotiators on Friday morning approved provisions for a Bill on South Africa's final constitution after a marathon all-night session.

Agreement was reached on a host of significant issues in bilateral and multilateral talks at Parliamentary venues which peaked through Thursday and into the early hours of Friday.

However, five major matters remained outstanding.

They were: education, language, lock-out provisions in the labour clause of the Bill of Rights, the property clause and judiciary provisions about whether there should be a national attorney-general.

The CA's [Constitutional Assembly] special negotiating committee — to which the various inter-party committees gave their report-backs from 9pm on Thursday — agreed the issues should be addressed again next week when the full CA was expected to start debating the constitutional Bill. The draft would be tidied up by advisers, and printed over the weekend before being debated by the full CA next week. Parties would then be able to move formal amendments to the Bill in areas where they still wanted to changes.

Chapters on which agreement was almost completely reached included those dealing with local government, provinces, Parliament, the president and the national executive, the preamble, the public administration, and security services.

The most widely acclaimed agreement of the night was that on one of the toughest issues the negotiators had faced in two years of talks — protection of the rights of cultural, religious and linguistic communities.

In closed-door negotiations after midnight, the ANC, NP [National Party] and Freedom Front decided the new constitution should provide for a commission to promote and protect these rights. They also agreed on the inclusion of a protective clause in the Bill of Rights.

The agreements were seen as a major breakthrough by all parties, who said they effectively resolved the language question, and impacted on the way language and other issues would be dealt with in the chapter of the constitution dealing with education. Spokesmen for all parties warmly welcomed the agreement and MPs

and Senators burst into spontaneous applause at the conclusion of the debate.

All parties claimed victory in the breakthrough, and although the DP [Democratic Party] claimed the idea originated from the former Progressive Federal Party in 1977, the proposal in Friday's talks came from the ANC. It captured "in a democratic and progressive manner the aspirations of the people of this country," Deputy Constitutional Development Minister Valli Moosa said.

Freedom Front leader Gen. Constand Viljoen said the proposal was "a brave move of the ANC. I think this is a very great achievement".

The concept could be exported to the rest of Africa, which was also grappling with the issue of self-determination.

Chief NP negotiator Roelf Meyer said the concepts of language, culture and religion almost got a new dimension in the South African context — they had now become "liberated".

Douglas Gibson of the DP welcomed the agreement, saying it showed South Africa was a "big country with a big heart".

The agreement was a moment of great historical significance, CA chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said. The parties had "been together for two years and there hasn't been a single issue that has united us as much as this issue". Ramaphosa, who had chaired the tri-lateral, said participants had been "overcome with emotion" when agreement was reached.

As the exhausted negotiators prepared to leave the Old Assembly Chamber shortly before 6am on Friday, CA deputy chairman Leon Wessels, who was presiding in the closing stages, said: "Thank you for a lovely, memorable night."

The CA's legal advisers will now be burning the midnight oil to prepare the Bill for printing over the weekend.

South Africa: De Klerk Campaigns for National Party in Durban

MB1804174696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1721 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN April 18 SAPA — A garlanded National Party [NP] leader F W de Klerk went on an election walkabout north of Durban on Thursday afternoon, promising peace in KwaZulu/Natal if voters supported the NP in the forthcoming poll. De Klerk visited two of Durban's previously segregated Indian areas to launch the NP's north coast local government election campaign.

In Phoenix, de Klerk's surprise appearance at the Plaza shopping centre appeared to amuse shoppers, some of whom rushed to greet the former state president and his wife Marike. Shoppers gathered around to watch de Klerk pose in a fez hat beside a shop assistant. A short while later, his wife wrapped herself in a colourful sari and smiled for a small troop of press photographers. Next up was the pet store where de Klerk bent down to stare back at wide-eyed goldfish. "Which is your most expensive fish?" the NP leader asked, prompting a ripple of applause from his entourage. Staff at a nearby restaurant marked de Klerk's arrival with a rendition of Shosholoz. Mrs de Klerk received some gift-wrapped samoosas from a take-away outlet.

Addressing about 100 people in the parking lot outside, de Klerk said the Inkatha Freedom Party and the African National Congress had both failed to deliver on their respective election promises made during the 1994 campaign. "The time has come for a change. The ANC and IFP have had two years to bring peace and they have failed to do so. The NP will ensure peace, he said to loud applause.

"What about Magnus Malan?" one bystander retorted.

The NP entourage then moved on to nearby Verulam, where de Klerk was ushered around the local fruit market.

He then addressed about 50 people, telling them a NP government would consider re-introducing the death penalty "because the killing in KwaZulu-Natal can't go on".

He later told reporters his party's view was that elections in the province should go ahead as planned despite the violence. "We had many of the same problems in 1994 but the (general) elections nevertheless took place successfully". Staggered elections should only be introduced as a last resort, de Klerk said, adding that they were a better option than an election postponement.

De Klerk was also expected to visit Stanger residents on the north coast on Thursday evening.

ANC leader President Nelson Mandela will also canvass in KwaZulu/Natal this weekend when he visits Kwa-Mashu and KwaMakutha outside Durban.

Political leaders are stepping up their election campaigns in case the polls go ahead as planned on May 29.

The ANC has called for a postponement, citing the threat of violence and alleged voter registration irregularities.

South Africa: ANC's Zuma Explains Call for Elections Delay

MB1904133796 Johannesburg NEW NATION
in English 19 Apr 96 p 11

[Interview with ANC leader in KwaZulu/Natal Province Jacob Zuma by correspondent Paddy Harper; place and date not given; passages with slantlines published in bold]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **There have been many versions in the media as to what the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal wants with regard to the postponement or staggering of the local government elections scheduled for May 29. Could you clarify the position.**

There are two major factors which we have talked about with regard to the local government elections in the province. The first of these is the high level of violence in the province. The second is the massive amount of fraud we have uncovered in the process of registration and the drawing up of the voters' rolls.

On the issue of violence, there has been a spate of assassinations and massacres during the run-up to this year's local elections. We have also had stand-offs which have led to people dying in areas like Impendle when we tried to exercise our right to hold meetings.

We have also had provincial ministers coming under attack. There has also been a lot of intimidation, preventing our people from registering and putting pressure on our candidates not to present their names for the elections.

In our discussions assessing the state of the province with regard to elections, we found that rather than decreasing, violence and intimidation are on the increase.

This indicates that because of the extent of political intolerance, no-go areas and deaths have reached levels at which free and fair elections could not take place presently.

During the burial of our people there has been questions put to the organisation time and time on how voting will take place in such a dangerous environment. And I don't think we have an answer.

In our view, the provincial government does not have an existing mechanism to deal with violence. Police, in one way or another, have been implicated themselves.

At Shobashobane, police have been implicated in the killings and these developments have indicated that these acts of violence are part of an orchestrated and well-organised campaign of political violence. The result of this is that people are expected to go to the polls intimidated and in fear for their lives.

In the light of this, we could not say that we were confident that the provincial government was doing enough to deal with the violence in these six weeks before the elections.

In a number of rural areas, our people do not have a chance to participate in the process of preparing for elections. In some areas, people were chased away by amakhosi [chiefs] who are IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] members. Other areas are in the dark — nobody knows what has happened to registration, the voters rolls and the like.

We have had information indicating that there were gross irregularities in the voters rolls. When these problems were detected, they were raised with the authorities and with Minister Peter Miller (whose local government and housing department is responsible for administering the elections and addressing their problems).

However, when problems were not dealt with and more and more fraud was discovered, it became clear to us that this was a co-ordinated plan deliberately aimed at ensuring that elections were not conducted in a free and fair manner.

Take the example of the Ulundi voters roll, where the IFP would have been doing exactly what they wanted without being disturbed. On this roll there were a number of concrete examples of fraud.

People from outside Ulundi were registered in this town; there were double registrations for the same person and at more than one address; in some instances, a group of people were registered with one address.

In response to our complaints, Minister Miller said that they would be doing an audit of the voters rolls. However, we were not satisfied with this as an audit will not deal with the problems we were talking about — an audit would only be about changing spelling mistakes and would not deal with an inflated number of voters on the roll.

It is for this reason that we have demanded an independent investigation of each and every voters' roll by a committee appointed by the national government in a thorough and meticulous manner.

It should not merely be carried out by officials of the provincial government as it is these very officials who have allowed the rampant fraud to take place.

On realising the extent of the fraud which affects every voters' roll, we realised that this could not be done in the six weeks period set for elections.

We are no longer having difficulty in believing that the problems can be resolved in six weeks...we are calling

outright for a postponement of the elections pending the outcome of the investigation.

The IFP seems to be bent on having its way and pushing ahead with the elections despite the condition of the voters rolls and this can only further raise our suspicions. We simply cannot have elections with the type of voters rolls we have...an investigation of every voters' roll in the province is essential.

Apart from the postponement, what concrete steps does the ANC in the province want central government to take?

What we want is an alternative investigation of the voters' rolls by the teams that are being appointed by the president. This team must not just hold one meeting for a single day and take it that this constitutes an investigation. This investigation must have a technical component to look at every voters' rolls around the province.

It must also involve the participation of every political party in the province. With regard to the multiparty investigation agreed by ANC president Mandela and IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi, we welcome this, but reiterate that it must not just be a one-day exercise involving a single meeting. The investigation must be a thorough one and must deal with all the voters' rolls to correct the faults.

With regard to the violence, we strongly believe that the national government must intervene and work out an effective security system that is going to guarantee that throughout the province, the process of canvassing is free and fair. This intervention cannot be just aimed at the date of the elections — it must secure the province well in advance of the elections.

There is a hit list with names of ANC leaders in the province who have been singled out for assassination and although police in the province are aware of its existence, they have done nothing to arrest those planning the killings.

This situation must be addressed. People who are killers must be arrested. It is important to note that since the arrest of alleged killers at Shobashobane and in other areas on the south coast, violence has subsided. At Eqodeni, an IFP area near Port Shepstone, 10 people were massacred and the ANC was blamed. However, the people who were arrested for the killings turned out to be IFP.

We believe that if proper mechanisms are set in place for security and the investigation of the killings carried, we will be able to set a clear election date.

How will this postponement help in ensuring free and fair elections when similar approaches in the past failed?

The steps we have already outlined need to form part of a strategy to ensure the elections are a success — in the past these steps were not considered. Any postponement must be accompanied by a vigorous programme to deal with problems identified by the investigation. The voters' rolls tell us that at the points of registration, a lot has gone wrong and government will have to look at how officials have conducted themselves in handling registration and will, in fact have to look at the whole process of registration again.

A lot of ANC people who registered are not on the voters' rolls and it is doubtful that the officials handling the registration carried out their tasks effectively.

We do need a perfect security system to contain the problem of violence. Government must take decisive steps to deal with the killings. An efficient programme to tackle the killings and to provide security to the people of the province is a pre-requisite for an effective election.

Are you confident of a free and fair election with the same officials who have handled registration?

Clearly it would be a dangerous situation. This is one of the issues which will stand out in the investigation — the people who have been responsible for running the elections are part of the problem. This must be one of the solutions; involving independent people who are not pushing party-political ends. We do not think that people like the JSB (Joint Services Board) staff who have allowed such abuses and gross irregularities to slip past them during registration will be capable of running an effective election.

Does the ANC have a political programme to make use of any space to campaign which may be secured by the national government with regard to security?

We have developed a political campaign programme for activity across the province, having divided it into campaign zones and with which we will proceed. We intend moving into the parts of the province which are said to be no-go areas for us and we will be able to do so fully once proper security measures are taken.

South Africa: 'Tensions' Reported Between Parliamentary Committee, SANDF

MB1804123096 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English 16 Apr 96

[Report by Barry Streek; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tensions between Parliament's joint committee on defence and the South African National Defence Force [SANDF] erupted into the open yesterday when the committee's chairperson, Mr Tony Yengeni, strongly criticised the decision to buy 12 Rooivalk [red falcon] helicopters.

He said the decision to buy the helicopters "without consulting the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and before the defence review process is complete, is highly regrettable". He also called on the national defence force to consult and be accountable to his committee about the purchase of the South African-made helicopters.

The strong statement by Yengeni, a senior ANC MP, reflects the determination by parliamentarians of all parties to exercise their right of control over the government, a right which has been strengthened in the new draft constitution which gives parliamentary committees the power to subpoena witnesses and documents.

Parliament is also to be given the specific power to change the national budget, and this could be used against government departments and institutions who do not consult sufficiently with parliamentary committees.

While ANC chairpersons of committees have been critical of ministers in the past, this has generally been where the ministers have been National Party or IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] members — but in this case the Defence Minister, Mr Joe Modise, and his Deputy Minister, Mr Ronnie Kasrils, are also senior ANC MPs.

Yengeni's statement, therefore, reflects the increasing resolution among MPs, particularly ANC MPs, not to be rubber stamps, particularly when it comes to the traditionally secretive security services.

Yengeni pointed out that "an important process of major significance" was the review of the defence force within the context of the White Paper on defence. "This defence review must determine the nature of the defence force structure and armaments that the national defence force must have. Hence the decision to buy many major weapons systems, including the navy's corvettes, has been delayed until the completion of the defence review later this year."

Yengeni clearly feels the national defence force has attempted to pre-empt the review by ordering the

Rooivalks, thereby treating the committee's involvement and powers with contempt.

The committee is to meet this morning to discuss the White Paper and is likely to endorse Yengeni's stand, giving the SANDF a clear message that it will not hesitate to use its powers.

South Africa: Officials Declare RDP 'on Course'

MB1804132596 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 18 Apr 96 p 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reconstruction and Development Programme [RDP] is on course and is working despite a commonly held public perception that it is not doing its job, officials insist.

The RDP office says the R7.5-billion [rands] budget for various projects this year shows how significant the programme is to South Africa. "Debate in public and the media clearly indicates that the RDP vision to change the role of the government has a general appeal," says an RDP newsletter.

"This is not surprising in a country where ordinary people often feel helpless about influencing the manner in which government works."

Commenting that the visibility of the RDP was increasing rapidly, the newsletter adds that business plans worth more than R8-billion have already been passed by the programme's steering committee and money has been made available to line function departments to ensure the implementation of the projects. "By June, it is estimated that there will be contractors on more than 43,000 sites of RDP programmes around the country," it adds.

The publication says crime and corruption represent one of the biggest challenges to the RDP, describing them as "a major handicap to growth and development".

The problem is being tackled through an integrated information system, a police project funded by the RDP which will allow the police to track down offenders in what it calls a more comprehensive manner.

The publication defends Jay Naidoo (the former Minister in the Office of the President who was in control of the RDP) for his role in the project development, saying that in the past two years "he not only had to juggle budgets for RDP projects, but had to bear the brunt of unpopular decisions made by Cabinet to prioritise them.

"To add insult to injury, the eyes of the press focused on a perceived lack of delivery rather than the enormous achievements of the RDP," the newsletter says.

It adds that success has been achieved in various areas, particularly in regard to 22 presidential lead projects, which include nutrition programmes, municipal infrastructure programmes, public works, urban renewal, water conservation, electrification and education in general.

A 25-year vision for development has also been part of the RDP, and it is expected that this will receive an important boost as a result of data obtained during the national census later this year.

South Africa: Budget Deficit Prediction Revised Downwards

MB1804185996 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1636 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG April 18 SAPA — The budget deficit for the 1995/96 financial year has been revised downwards to 5.5 percent of gross domestic product from the estimate of six percent stated in the March 13 Budget.

A statement issued by the Director General of Finance Estian Calitz on Thursday said revised figures for exchequer issues and receipts left a shortfall of R27.48-billion [rands] against GDP, compared to the previously stated R30.09-billion.

It said exchequer issues, adjusted for RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program] double counting, amounted to R155.95-billion up to the end of March, as opposed to the revised R157.36-billion expenditure figure published in the Budget Review.

Total exchequer receipts, adjusted for the premium on government stock, amounted to R128.47-billion, compared to the previously revised figure of R127.48-billion.

However, the statement said the final outcome for the 1995/96 financial year could change further as a result of the surrender of unspent funds and late requests by spending agencies, and revenue being transferred on March 31. The final outcome would be known towards the end of June.

The lower deficit, after subtracting the opening balance of R3.174-billion, resulted in a reduced net borrowing requirement of R24.306-billion (R26.661-billion).

The gross borrowing requirement for 1995/96 was thus lower at R34.991-billion (including R10.685-billion in loan redemptions) compared to the revised figure of R37.357-billion at the time of the Budget.

Former Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg announced a reduction of the budget deficit from six percent to 5.1 percent for the 1996/97 financial year.

South African Press Review for 19 Apr MB1904121296

[FBIS Report]

BEELD

NP Must Move to Center — "If the National Party [NP] really regards itself as an alternative to the ANC, then it has no option but to position itself at the political center, as recently foreseen by its secretary general, Roelf Meyer," suggests a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 17 April. Such a positioning means that the NP's policy "has to move closer to that of the ANC in government," because the ANC with its overwhelming majority at the polls is "standing legs astride over the political center." It's the only way the NP can win support from the ANC, thus reducing that majority. For white NP supporters, who constitute the party's "traditional power base," this has "far-reaching implications." First, the party will have to "place less emphasis on their needs and focus more on those of blacks" if it wants to recruit black support. Further, whites must be prepared to "gradually become a minority in the party;" in fact the party will have to gain a "blacker image" in its leadership corps in particular. "To move closer to the ANC is in fact somewhat easier, because the policy of the ANC-in-government differs considerably from that of the ANC of old." "Gone are radical elements such as absolute socialism, central control over everything, and talks of nationalization."

MAIL & GUARDIAN

Ramaphosa's Move Hurts Nation — Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English, in an editorial on page 28 in the 19-25 April edition, says Cyril Ramaphosa's move into the business sector is a "serious blow" to the nation. "The ANC's explanation for his move — that it is part of a brilliant strategy to broaden the struggle against the legacy of apartheid — smacks of the disingenuous. The fact that he accepted an appointment as deputy to the chairman of New Africa Investments Ltd (Nail), Dr Nthato Motlana, suggests Mr Ramaphosa was acting on impulse, rather than some deeply laid plan." The editorial concludes: "Abandoning a marooned (if not sinking) ship of political fortune, he stepped onto the first landfall which became available."

NEW NATION

Does Truth Bring Reconciliation? — The Truth Commission hearings have a "cathartic significance" but the question remains: "To what extent will that healing experience translate into reconciliation?" asks a page 10 editorial in the 19 April edition of Johannesburg NEW NATION in English. Without the "willing participation"

of the apartheid-era generals and politicians responsible for torture and murder, "there can be no reconciliation. And all that the commission will have achieved in the end will be a measure of healing and perhaps some reparation."

THE STAR

Message of Falling Rand — "The value of the rand is a barometer of how the world sees South Africa evolving. The world does not like what it sees — a perception which needs to be digested and acted upon by leaders in all spheres of the nation's activities"

is Johannesburg THE STAR in English's editorial comment on the significance of the currency's drop. The page 12 editorial on 19 April lists some of the reasons for investors losing faith in the rand: "the resignation of the finance minister, heightened speculation surrounding the scrapping of the remnants of exchange control, disappointment over the Budget's failure to reduce tax rates to accord more closely with global norms, growing political tension in KwaZulu Natal, and ongoing labour unrest." A strong rand requires, more than anything, "stability — in politics, economics and labour."

Botswana

Botswana: Military Chief Concerned About South African Situation

MB1804203996 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1854 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GABORONE April 18 SAPA — Botswana's Defence Force commander, Lt-Gen Seretse Khama Ian Khama, on Thursday expressed concern over what he said was the threat posed to regional stability by the situation in South Africa.

Khama, son of Botswana's first president, Sir Seretse Khama, said in an interview with the Botswana Guardian that it was clear Africa's future would not be tranquil, and named South Africa in particular as a future potential flashpoint for instability.

He said conflicts of the type taking place in KwaZulu/Natal had the potential to spill over.

The general crime situation in South Africa and the influx of illegal weapons into the country also worried him. He said illegal arms being used by criminals could be used by left-wing dissidents in the future.

Responding to reports of weapons purchases by Botswana, Khama said it was of no concern whether it was tanks, missiles, jet fighters or anti-aircraft batteries that were being purchased, the fact of the matter was that the Botswana Defence Force needed the tools required to do its job. "Defence forces are the pillars of peace in Africa," Khama said. "We cannot fulfill our objectives with ailing equipment, abetted by the risk of unpreparedness.

"A volatile and relatively unstable southern Africa requires a controlled recovery."

Khama suggested the potential for conflict in South Africa was being heightened by the fact that the expectations of many people, arising from promises by the African National Congress government, were not being met.

South Africa's reconstruction and development programme was not living up to expectations, houses were not being built at a satisfactory rate, and police morale was low. These were further reasons to believe there was potential for conflict in South Africa, said Khama.

He said he did not support moves by the Southern African Development Community to promote the free movement of people within the region. Botswana and South Africa, with their significant economic advantages over their neighbours, could be overwhelmed. As it was Botswana already had a sizeable illegal immigrant problem.

Khama said there was no sign of demilitarisation of the region, citing South Africa's recent purchase of helicopter gunships for R876 million [rands].

Zimbabwe had already spent ZD30 million [Zimbabwe dollars] of a proposed ZD1 billion on an order for troop carriers from France, while South Africa was seeking to replace its ageing Mirage jets, Impala aircraft and Alouette helicopters.

Botswana's defence force needed equipment for its primary role in defence of the country, but it also needed it for operations such as the stamping out of poaching.

Botswana: Defense Force Shopping List From Netherlands Army Noted

MB1804141596 Gaborone MMEGI in English
5-11 Apr 96 p 4

[Report by Sechele Sechele]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "It is not normal practice for any government to make public its military hardware procurement", the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Ponatshego Kedikilwe, told Parliament Tuesday.

He was answering a question over the Botswana Defence Force's (BDF) intended purchase of military arsenal from the Netherlands.

The BDF shopping list from the Dutch army, which has recently been sanctioned by the Netherlands government, includes 50 Leopard tanks, 50 pieces of portable weaponry and 200 trucks. According to military analysts, the total bill for the military hardware is approximately U.S.\$63 million — about P189 million [pula].

Answering a question posed by the opposition Botswana National Front (BNF) MP for Gaborone Central, Michael Dingake, Kedikilwe added that he considered "it unacceptable for the Honourable Member of Parliament to expect me (Kedikilwe) to reveal such sensitive information to the detriment of national security. Part of defence is to secure the sensitivity of sensitive information".

But according to the minister, the sensitive arms deal comprises "mainly trucks and water trailers. I believe the equipment is indispensable to the current operations of the army". This includes mainly anti-poaching operations in the country's game reserves and parks.

Since MMEGI reported on the military purchase three months ago, the Office of the President has ignored questions on the arms deal. Although reliable sources say the equipment includes second-hand military equipment, Kedikilwe told Parliament that "the Dutch government (is) selling their excess equipment at very low

prices to selected countries. Most of the equipment is brand new as it was kept as war reserve during the Cold War era. By buying the trucks, the BDF is saving about 80 per cent of what it would cost locally."

Dingake had asked Kedikilwe to precisely enlighten" (Parliament) on the military hardware deal "including the nature of the hardware and the quantity and quality of any of its components, the cost to taxpayers and whether it is indispensable to current operations of the national army."

Botswana: Minister Says Country To Continue Beef Sales to UK

MB1604155196 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1110 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of agriculture, Mr. Roy Blackbeard, says Botswana will continue to sell beef in the United Kingdom market as usual. He returned from London over the weekend where he held discussions with British authorities about Botswana's beef exports to the United Kingdom.

The news released from the ministry says this was in view of the ban on the sale of beef from cattle or bovines over two and half years old. His visit was a fulfillment of his promise to Parliament to approach the UK authorities to put Botswana's case across for an exemption. This is because Botswana's beef is derived from cattle which use free-range grazing and do not feed on animal protein, which is alleged to be the cause of mad cow disease. The British authorities have now relaxed the ban in respect of a number of countries, including Botswana, with effect from April 13.

Botswana: Bank Officials Call Country Economic 'Success Story'

MB1504172096 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1500 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GABORONE April 15 SAPA-DPA — Diamond-rich Botswana has narrowed the gap between the country's rich and poor by some 20 per cent in recent years, but rising unemployment and inflation could block economic growth, Bank of Botswana officials said Monday.

According to bank figures, the number of people living below the poverty line in Botswana has decreased from about 55 per cent in 1985/86 to 45 per cent in 1993/94.

In addition, the data indicates improvement in the distribution of income, as the country compares favorably with other African countries such as Tanzania and Lesotho.

Botswana has long been regarded as an African success story. While other countries on the continent flounder in debt crisis, Botswana has foreign exchange reserves of some 4.7 billion dollars, which Bank of Botswana Governor Quill Hermans said was among "the highest per capita anywhere in the world".

A document released to the press ahead of the bank's forthcoming annual report said a large part of Botswana's relative success was due to a 10 per cent per annum growth of the formal sector. "This transformed a largely rural, pastoral and extremely poor society into an increasingly modern, industrial and middle income economy," it said.

Jay Salkin, director of the central bank's research department, told journalists attending a seminar that gains in the southern African country's education system led to a nine-fold increase in "human capital".

Following national boom years from 1978 to 1988, when growth measured in gross domestic product averaged 10 per cent, Botswana hit a recession in 1992, and growth has been slow ever since due to a slump in world market prices for diamonds, Botswana's chief foreign exchange earner. The bank, however, projects stronger economic growth through 1997.

But inflation of over 10 per cent and increased joblessness could pose problems for the country now actively trying to promote foreign investment to create jobs, bank officials stress.

"Unemployment is still the most important problem Botswana faces," said Salkin, who noted that over 40 per cent of the country's 15-to-24-year-olds were out of work. With an overall unemployment rate of 21 per cent in a population of 1.4 million, however, Botswana's rate is low in comparison to neighbouring states. In South Africa, for example, 40 per cent of the people are out of work, Salkin said.

Bank officials also announced Monday that pending final approval of the finance ministry, Botswana will gradually replace its coins and introduce a 5 and perhaps a 10 pula coin next year.

Botswana: Government Criticized for Politicizing Civil Service

MB1604160996 Gaborone MMEGI in English 29 Mar-4 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Party and its government"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is almost comical that at this point in time, the government still wishes to hoodwink us into thinking that the civil service has not been politically contaminated.

As reported elsewhere in this paper, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Ponatshego Kedikilwe, has told Parliament that according to the public service General Order No 298, public servants are not allowed to participate openly and actively in partisan politics.

But many recent developments — at ministerial level, as entry into Parliament, in civil service transfers, appointments and promotions — have since convinced us that our civil service is highly politicised. We know that many a civil servant who does not openly identify with the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) have had to suffer many subtle forms of discrimination, harassment and frustration.

For many, we have seen them being civil servants turned fervent politicians in the front-bench of the National Assembly in a matter of hours. Recent examples include Margaret Nasha, Gladys Kokorwe, Festus Mogae. Others had the decency of first resigning from government before showing their true political colours: Lt Gen Mompoti Merafhe, Ponatshego Kedikilwe, Jerry Gabaake, David Mogami, and so forth.

Some were rewarded with diplomatic posts after they were rejected by the voters. Recent examples include: Archie Mogwe and Gaotlhaetse Matlhabaphiri.

Therefore, the ruling party can no longer fool us into believing that party politics and favouritism are not at play in the civil service. In any case, the government has already declared that the same General Orders are outdated and that they will be either overhauled or revised soon.

That the government has politicised the civil service is like shooting oneself on the foot because when any one of the opposition parties takes over in the future, it will then put its own men in the civil service who might work against the interests of the BDP — something many already suspect of our civil service today given the entrenched partisan politics which permeates it.

Botswana: Skepticism Expressed Over Healing of Rift in Ruling Party

*MB1604161196 Gaborone MMEGI in English
29 Mar-4 Apr 96 p 7*

[From the "Speaking Out" column by Fred Dira: "Can a hand-shake solve the BDP split?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After many denials that there was any split in the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), the leader of the party has finally acknowledged the existence of the split. Addressing the BDP's National Council in Sebele recently, President Masire announced that the split which had plagued the party had finally

been healed. Masire said at the meeting: "There were some who seemed hell-bent on seeing us destroy ourselves through their intolerance of views that diverge from their own. I am grateful that peace has now been made between the groups".

I can imagine how deeply gratified President Masire must have been about the momentous development about which he informed his party's National Council. The BDP split must have been a major embarrassment to him. It seriously undermined the credibility of the BDP and its government. The split was also a constant source of frustration and anger to the electorate, who suffered in numerous ways as a result of having to deal with a government which was debilitated by what was essentially a senseless split.

I used the past tense in the preceding paragraph in deference to President Masire's announcement that the split is a thing of the past. And if the split has indeed healed, it is not difficult to imagine that there will be many people, apart from the leader of the BDP, who will be extremely gratified about the news. I have in mind the many members and supporter of the BDP as well as the countless other citizens of this country who many not be members or supporters of the BDP but are anxious to have an effective and credible government managing the affairs of this country.

But is the split indeed over? What magic formula lay behind the hand shake between Ministers Daniel Kwe-lagobe and Mompoti Merafhe, having eluded the BDP leadership for the past six years? Will the reconciliation be permanent or merely a momentary event aimed at creating a smoke screen over the embarrassing split?

Already many people are expressing serious doubts about the genuineness of reconciliation announced by President Masire recently. The common reason given for such scepticism is that the BDP split lasted so long and pervaded so many aspects of public affairs in this country that many people simply do not believe that it could be ended by a single hand shake.

Such people recall similar previous occasions when the two faction leaders tried to convince the nation that they have really been nothing else in their political careers but the best of friends. Perhaps the most notable of such occasions was last year's "high profile" press conference which, in retrospect, was probably staged for no other purpose than to show Kwe-lagobe and Merafhe sharing the same platform and declaring their mutual friendship. At the time, hardly anyone was impressed by what they said, and subsequent events confirmed that widespread scepticism.

The view of the majority of people to whom I have spoken about the BDP split is that it might have been prevented from developing into the serious problem it is today had it been dealt with firmly when it first became evident. Rightly or wrongly, many people blame President Masire in particular for having failed to deal firmly enough with the emergence of the two factions of his party. They believe that Masire was probably too accommodating to the egos of Kwelagobe and Merafhe for fear of jeopardizing the unity of the BDP.

Whatever the truth is about who should take most of the blame for the crippling split of the BDP, there seems to be general agreement that the split is now so deeply rooted that it cannot be healed by occasional hand shakes or joint press conferences. If this is indeed the case, it spells a most contentious and unproductive future for the party.

Botswana: Staff Shortage Puts Police in Prosecutors' Jobs

*MB1604161396 Gaborone MMEGI in English
29 Mar-4 Apr 96 p 4*

[Report by Keto Segwai]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Private attorneys who misuse trust funds were roundly condemned this week when the House debated budgetary allocation to the Administration of Justice and Attorney General's Chambers.

Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Ponatshego Kedikilwe told parliament that his office has received the Legal Practitioners' Draft Bill which will "be presented to Parliament in the near future".

The move follows failure by the legal fraternity in Botswana to establish a Law Society.

Kedikilwe said the Attorney General [AG] has been given powers to call for examination of private law firms' books noting that "the Attorney General has had no option but to take to court a number of delinquent lawyers".

Daniel Kwelagobe, MP for Molepolole congratulated the AG for monitoring errant private attorneys. "We welcome such a development." Gaborone West MP, Paul Rantao supporting the possible introduction of the Legal Practitioners' Bill observed that "the poor or low-income people are always the victims of these scrupulous lawyers".

Specially-elected MP, Joy Phumaphi castigating the fraudulent attorneys, also asked how far was the AG with the formulation of the Law Society. The AG, Phandu Skelemani, responded that "lawyers have failed to register a Law Society" and that is why the matter

is "being brought here as a bill to force them to form a society".

The recurring issue was that of poor staffing levels at the Attorney General Chambers which has led to a situation whereby police officers now act as prosecutors. MPs decried this situation.

Kwelagobe called for the full staffing of the chambers. "Our police are sometimes confronted with more competent legal experts from the neighbouring countries," he said. [Words indistinct] Mogoditshane, Mokgweetsi Kgosisipula appealed to the AG to improve their staffing so that they can help the police. "Serious cases, such as rape, must be handled by the AG staff to avoid a situation whereby rapists go scot-free."

Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe, Serowe South MP said the strengthening of the AG will save government money that currently paid to advocates from outside the country. She further suggested that AG attorneys be attached to all ministries in the manner the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has done with accounting officers.

Phumaphi wondered why the AG staffing requirements were so low. She said it was unacceptable that policemen should be prosecuting cases matched against well-qualified defence lawyers.

Selebi-Phikwe MP, Gil Saleshando expressed concern that "after 30 years we still don't have professional prosecutors. We still use the police. As such some people can get away with murder." [passage omitted]

Botswana: Document Notes Shift in State Dealings With Private Press

*MB1604093996 Gaborone THE MIDWEEK SUN
in English 27 Mar 96 p 3*

[Report by Tshimologo Boitumelo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After years of extreme reluctance, government now appears likely to bow to pressure to establish structures designed to facilitate communication with the private press.

An internal discussion document for the Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration which has been leaked to THE MIDWEEK SUN states that, "It has now become urgent that all government ministries and departments must have Media Liaison Officers."

It is understood that the document, entitled "Keynote Issue, Paper for the Ministry of President Affairs and Public Administration" provides a basis for discussion of policy issues to feature prominently in the ministry's chapter National Development Plan 8. It appears from

the document that Press Liaison Officers will be established in all ministries in the early years of National Development Plan 8 period.

Signs that the government's position on the way it deals with the private press is shifting began to emerge last year in November when Alpheus Matlhaku, a senior official in the Office of the President hinted to a national district development planning conference that government now wants to pursue a policy of openness. This was the first time that a senior government official admitted that there is a limited flow of information from government to the public via the media.

A paper presented at the conference (a copy of which this paper has) quotes Matlhaku as having hinted at the establishment of the posts of Press Liaison Officers. "This is to avoid the present untidy situation where any journalist can call anybody in any ministry and ask about anything anytime, and when the ministry official responds by saying he/she needs time to select and check the information, he/she is accused of refusing to release information," he is quoted as saying.

The private press often complain that information in government is beyond their reach whereas Radio Botswana and the BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS have unlimited access to the same information. Government is a "closed" institution to the private press.

This lack of openness has given rise to accusations that government does not feel accountable to anybody and that there is no need to make information available about its activities to the public that voted it into power.

Malawi

Malawi: Tanzanian President Urges Stability in Southern Africa

EA1904112996 Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1600 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania says southern Africa should maintain peace, security and stability as a necessary condition to attract private investment. President Mkapa was speaking in Blantyre today when he opened this year's tobacco sales at the Lindi auction floors. [passage omitted]

On regional cooperation, President Mkapa said all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have a mandate to unite and aggregate into groups for development of common strategies to solve political problems.

Commenting on bilateral relations between Malawi and Tanzania, President Mkapa stressed that there is need to revive and deepen consultations on areas of cooperation.

He called for urgent action to formalise informal trade relations which already exist between the two peoples of the two countries. He also said his government has put the port of Dar es Salaam at the disposal of Malawi for its imports and exports through the northern corridor. [Passage omitted]

At the end of President Mkapa's visit, the Tanzanian leader and President Bakili Muluzi issued a joint communique in which they among other issues agreed to enhance social and economic cooperation between the two countries. The two leaders also agreed to strengthen and deepen relations, particularly in the fields of tourism, transport, culture, health education and trade. They also called for the revival of the now dormant joint commission of cooperation within the next three months. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Mozambique: Government Obtains \$881 Million From Donors in Paris

MB1804205596 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mozambican Government's request for financial assistance from the international donor community to boost the economy during the current year was realized today. The government finally requested \$871 million, after an initial figure of \$1.1 billion.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Ezequiel Mavote] The \$871 million obtained in Paris is the exact figure requested by the Mozambican Government. The donors added \$10 million in form of a donation. Of this amount, \$314 million are destined for payment of the country's foreign debt. I asked Deputy Planning and Finance Minister Luisa Diogo whether the Mozambican Government's objective had been realized. Luisa Diogo said not only had the objective been realized but the government's work had been recognized.

[Diogo] This is a form of recognition by donors of the work carried out by the government in 1995. We know this consultative group [words indistinct]. Thus, this is a form of the recognition of the work carried out by the government and a commitment to work together this year and the following years.

[Mavote] What are the donors' main recommendations in Paris?

[Diogo] The main issues presented with regard to the government's report, were the following: the issue of economic growth, [words indistinct] the ongoing stabilization program with the International Monetary

Fund support, the issue of coordination, particularly with regard to the problem of reforms in the public sector and the state apparatus as such, the issue of decentralization and local government elections, as well as the issue of corruption. Another issue that was given priority at the meeting was the issue of Mozambique's debt, the debt burden for the Mozambican economy. [end recording]

Mozambique: Official Discusses Proposals Made in Paris Meeting

MB1904092896 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The government did not make any proposal to the Paris Consultative Group regarding the reduction of state apparatus workers. Likewise, the donors made no demand in that regard, according to Deputy Planning and Finance Minister Luisa Diogo:

[Begin Diogo recording] Our program includes reforms in the public sector. In the specific case of the state apparatus, our reforms have to do with the review of career paths and salaries. We made no proposal to reduce staff, and donors made no such proposal. [end recording]

At the Paris meeting, donors pledged \$881 million, \$10 million more than what the government asked. Mozambique submitted its immediate strategies to alleviate the country's foreign debt. Luisa Diogo suggested the creation of a fund for debt payment, and that budget funds earmarked for debt repayment should be diverted to social projects. Donors felt that such funds could be allocated to education and health. She said the World Bank and the IMF are discussing Mozambique's foreign debt.

Mozambique: Publication Assesses Economic Recovery Program

MB1904064596 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese 16 Apr 96 pp 1,2

[FBIS Translated Text] The \$1.1 billion that the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] government plans to ask for in Paris on 17 April, will bring to \$13 billion the credit given by the international community over the past nine years to implement the package imposed by the World Bank and the IMF. The package is currently known as the Socioeconomic Recovery Program, PRES, but judging from the prevailing reality, it has not made any significant progress.

Almost a decade (beginning in 1987) after PRE [Economic Recovery Program] and PRES were introduced, Mozambique remains on the list of the world's poorest countries, last in the line of the Lusophone African

countries, lagging behind poverty-stricken Guinea-Bissau.

In development terms, which include education, health, hygiene and other standards, Mozambique comes 167th on a list of 174 countries. Life expectancy is 46.4 years, and the adult literacy rate is 36.6 percent.

The international mentors of structural adjustment programs, increasingly under fire from various quarters, erroneously assumed that economic recovery would be achieved on a medium-term basis. Thus, they were only concerned with assuring short-term social funds, leading to a rise in domestic tensions. That was particularly reflected in Mozambique, where a war caused widespread social displacement, a dangerous army of 150,000 demobilized soldiers, who have no prospects in life now that the UN Operation in Mozambique pensions have dried up, and where 'wild capitalism' brought about by economic reforms has excluded large fringes of the population from any chances of survival, which has shot up the levels of corruption and crime.

More than 75 percent of Mozambicans live in absolute poverty, and the percentage of real unemployment is close to that of the active population, with PRES contributing with more than 50,000 people to the legion of unemployed. Ever since its introduction, the national minimum salary has depreciated by \$31, and can only buy 25 percent of a family's basic food requirements.

To get an idea of the situation, an ordinary citizen of Luxembourg, regarded as the richest country in the world with a per capita GDP of \$39,845, is almost 500 times richer than an ordinary Mozambican whose per capita GDP is only \$80, the lowest in the world. From another angle, which gauges the per capita purchasing power in every country in terms of U.S. dollars — PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) — the gulf between the two is narrowed, though the huge gap remains with Luxembourg recording \$31,090 and Mozambique \$550.

Meanwhile, the practical results of cooperation, as compared to investment, are minute. The explanation can only be found in corruption. Development aid has not led to structural changes because a criminal percentage is spent in salaries and expenditure with nationals from the so-called investor countries, and government and administrative structures embezzle it.

Moreover, PRES has become a major obstacle to effective democratization in that it restricts public expenditure, eternalizing the Frelimo government's exacerbated centralism, maintaining regional discrimination with southern Mozambique enjoying more privileges than the central and northern regions, and lacking in-

frastructures indispensable to the normal operation of institutions.

Mozambique's foreign debt amounts to \$5.4 billion and creditors want to know how much the country can pay when it goes to Paris. According to the World Bank, a country's maximum bearable debt is one whose interest rate is 200 percent of its exports. The average for the most indebted countries is 400 percent, with Mozambique close to the 800 percent-mark (\$650 million), which is obviously unbearable.

Mozambique diverts \$50 million to \$60 million annually as interest of that 'eternal debt,' that is, 7 percent of the GDP, 17 percent of the State Budget (the second highest item surpassed only by defense and security), or 30 percent of legal exports. This is an amount that could be better used in social programs or as domestic productive investment.

In view of World Bank pressure exerted on government to privilege foreign entrepreneurs in its privatizations program — although foreigners should join Mozambicans whenever possible — Mozambique's private sector is primarily foreign. This led the Mozambique Industrial Association, Aimo, to recently accuse Bretton Woods institutions of collaborating with government in blocking "African entrepreneurial potential."

Ironically, the Frelimo government's way of minimizing this chaotic situation has been to return to economic subordination to South Africa. The latter still regards Mozambique as a strategic country in terms of mining manpower, southern sea ports close to the highly industrialized Transvaal, important Cahora Bassa electricity supplies, and, more recently, as a venue to settle extremist boer colonists that could otherwise be a 'bitter pill' for Mandela's government to swallow in view of their commitment to a separate white state.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Mugabe Addresses 16th Independence Anniversary Gathering

*MB1804191196 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1800 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has said the government will continue to source more funds for the health sector, since the additional \$210 million [Zimbabwe dollars] recently allocated to the sector is not adequate.

President Mugabe told thousands of people at the country's 16th independence anniversary at the National Sports Stadium today that the government is concerned about the health delivery system, hence the decision to

provide additional funds to the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare in February this year.

Comrade Mugabe said although HIV-AIDS has contributed to the worsening health situation in Zimbabwe, the shortage of resources had adversely affected the health sector. He said the government has commissioned technical studies to see how best health services can be provided in Zimbabwe, and also to enable the government to know what the contribution of the state and consumers of the service should be.

On the Child Supplementary Feeding Program, Comrade Mugabe said the government has, with the assistance of donors, managed to raise \$199.8 million for the program, which last year suffered from inadequate funding.

Comrade Mugabe later proceeded to the Harare International Conference Center, where he hosted a lunch for several invited guests, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] party officials, as well as government officials and industrialists.

Zimbabwe: Mugabe Plans 'To Liberalize' Economy To Attract Investment

*MB1804145396 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1130 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says the government will this year take further measures to liberalize the economy, and attract new domestic and foreign investment. Comrade Mugabe said this at the festivities to mark Zimbabwe's 16th independence anniversary at the national sports stadium in Harare today. He said preparations are under way to launch the second phase of the economic structural adjustment program, whose first phase ended last December. Comrade Mugabe said emphasis will be on liberalizing the investment climate, as well as reforming the public enterprises which donors want privatized to improve efficiency and eliminate their dependence on government subsidies. He said the government has been slow in privatizing parastatals until it has worked out a mechanism to ensure that the indigenous business sector benefits from the exercise.

On the civil service, President Mugabe said the government will also take more measures to improve the delivery of services such as conducting more training programs and introducing a new performance management system.

Zimbabwe: Government Attempts To Seize White-Owned Land

MB1804122096 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0847 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE April 17 SAPA — President Robert Mugabe's government on Thursday restarted attempts to seize white-owned land with an announcement that 23 farms about 50,000ha in extent had been "designated" for confiscation to resettle blacks.

The HERALD, the country's main daily newspaper, reported notices of "designation for compulsory acquisition for resettlement" appearing in the Government Gazette were redesignations of farms earmarked for confiscation three years ago.

However, the legal deadline for the state to seize the land had passed and the process had to start from the beginning again, the newspaper reported. It said the farmers had a month in which to lodge objections.

The announcement came after angry statements by Mugabe early this year, in his campaign for re-election as president, in which he promised this year would see his "revolutionary land programme" start in earnest, "for once and for all, money or no money".

Observers said the publication of the list of farms on the 16th anniversary of independence from white minority rule appeared to be a deliberate political gesture. "This is extremely surprising," said Peter MacSporran, president of the Commercial Farmers' Union.

"All these farms are productive and some of them are employing as much as 120 workers each." He said the union was seeking clarification.

Zimbabwe: ZANU-PF 'Determined' To Destroy Economy

MB1904065996 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 11 Apr 96 p 4

[Article by Wilbert Mukori]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over 500 people have so far died of malaria in Zimbabwe. How can that be possible in this day and age? But such is the helpless state Zimbabwe is in now and, until a truly accountable government is put in place, ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] is set to drag the nation even deeper into the economic morass the party has landed it in.

The number of people who have died of malaria this year could be over 1,000. In rural areas, people have stopped taking their sick to the clinics or hospitals. What is the point? To the poor, health care now costs an arm and a leg. And even if one could afford the fees, there

is little relief offered. What with major hospitals like Harare's Parirenyatwa, Mpilo in Bulawayo and Gweru General Hospital struggling to find enough food and drugs for their patients. One can imagine the shoe-string budgets they are operating on and hence the shortages the rural hospitals and clinics are experiencing. Many have run out of basic drugs such as quinine.

A medical doctor from a rural area with a malaria outbreak told a television audience malaria patients treated with quinine have all recovered. In other words, the over 500 people died because they did not get any treatment. The doctor asked his district medical staff to "come and I collect their allocation of quinine". How could it happen that Zimbabwe could find itself in a financial position where the country does not have enough funds to buy enough basic drugs such as quinine tablets?

In 1980 Zimbabwe was considered a "middle income country" together with such countries as Bolivia. And at the time the country's economy was set to develop and grow. The end of the civil war, the lifting of the tough international economic sanctions and the generous foreign aid that flowed into the country all helped to create a very favourable economic environment. Zimbabwe was poised to become the "Switzerland of Africa".

But the welfarist economic policies pursued by government wasted away the country's golden opportunity. Ten years of socialism followed by six years of halfhearted free-market reforms have crippled the Zimbabwe economy leaving most of its people with neither work nor hope. The country has joined the queue of aid dependent countries. Zimbabwe is today rightly counted among the "least developed countries".

But it appears ZANU-PF, in a desperate attempt to arrest its ebbing popularity, is determined to destroy even the little economic life the country has left.

In a recent address to foreign diplomats accredited here, Foreign Affairs Minister Stan Mudenge confirmed the government was determined to carry out land redistribution and would insist on joint ventures with local blacks on all future investments.

"It should be understood that Zimbabwe needed to deal with the land question once and for all as the issue had been talked about for too long," Mudenge told diplomats.

The diplomats must have wondered how Zimbabwe could so readily commit suicide. The land redistribution and black advancement policies as proposed by ZANU-PF will be ruinous to this country. No Zimbabwean, black or white, will gain anything from it.

The exercise to resettle the land-hungry peasants on better land will not be assisted by government designating more white-owned farms because it was not the lack of land that held up the programme. It was held up by shortage of funds to build roads, schools and clinics and also by government's own bureaucratic bungling and incompetence. A recent press report confirmed this with its banner headline: "No cash for resettlement programme as state acquires 25 farms."

Over the years this government has acquired a lot of valuable farms and other properties that it has failed to put to good use. Another press report last month talked of five state settlements which have been reduced to "ghost towns". These were Empress Nickel Mine and four former military camps in-Ntabazinduna, Zvishavane, Gokwe and Guinea Fowl with "an average of 1,000 modern houses each", now in various stages of decay because of neglect.

Designating productive land and leaving it idle will have serious negative effects on the country's agricultural production. Zimbabwe used to be the "bread-basket" of Southern Africa. If government continues to acquire more farms, this country will soon not be producing enough food to feed its own people, let alone for export.

This will be happening at a time when Zimbabwe has to increase its food production to feed the millions of AIDS orphans whose bread winners are doomed to die of the disease in the next few years.

Ironically it was ZANU-PF's failure to allocate adequate resources to stem the spread of HIV that caused this orphans crisis. Most developed countries contained HIV infection at four percent or less of the population by mounting effective HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns. This government has spent mere pittance on its efforts to curb the spread of the disease and it is reckoned 30 percent of the population is HIV positive and the figure continues to rise exponentially. No nation in its right senses would be destroying its food production capacity when the nation's dependent-to-produce members are set to increase sharply.

So why does ZANU-PF want to grab more land when government cannot use what it has already? What is to be gained from turning the country into just another food aid dependent African country?

Black affirmative action proposals will not make blacks of this country any richer but further impoverish them. From the very beginning, in 1980, ZANU-PF should have adopted sound economic policies, and not its socialist policies which were doomed to fail.

Now with the country's black population totally impoverished and their life's savings wiped out by the run-

away inflation, it makes no sense to insist blacks own some shares in all new business ventures and parastatals. With what are blacks to buy these shares? The only blacks with money or political clout to have these shares are the same incompetent and corrupt blacks who have been running this country all along.

Foreign investors will continue to shy away from Zimbabwe as long as the country continues to insist on joint ventures with locals. No foreign investor in his right mind would want to be burden by such an arrangement.

So the millions of our people desperate for employment without which they cannot get the basic necessities of life, let alone hope to start a business venture of their own are denied such employment because there are no foreign investors. This in propounding black advancement ZANU-PF is holding the impoverished masses, not the foreign investors, to ransom. If foreigners cannot invest in Zimbabwe they can always go to other countries — and that is exactly what they have been doing.

Why government has been spending millions of taxpayers' money on investor wooing trips overseas when all it wants is to have black Zimbabweans own everything in this country is beyond me. It shows the confusion, contradiction and self-destructive tendencies of ZANU-PF.

By using whites as scapegoats for the country's economic failures President Mugabe is apparently trying to get some political mileage. The old "white basher" image had worked soon after independence but it will not work now. People want a decent standard of living and bashing the whites and throwing the nation into deeper economic crisis will not help.

It is not ZANU-PF's political future that interests the nation most but the future of Zimbabwe. If ZANU-PF should now completely destroy itself as it is obviously determined to, that is its business. But is it right that the party should drag the whole nation with it?

There is no doubting the fact that Zimbabwe is blessed with a great abundance of mineral wealth, a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna and that the country has a lot of as yet untapped potential. Drought is not really a problem in this country although this government has often given it as the reason for the country's poor performance and hardship. If countries like Israel with a third or less of our "drought" year rainfall can successfully turn the desert into green fields and orchards, then it is clear drought has been used in Zimbabwe as a feeble excuse for human failure.

The people's grinding poverty does not make any sense given the country's great abundance. The great majority

of our people have nothing; they are unemployed, they have no land although the country is sparsely populated and the cost of living has soared pushing the price of food, shelter, education and health beyond the reach of most people. A Zimbabwean is so poor he cannot afford \$25 to buy quinine tablets for those suffering from malaria.

The only reason there would be human suffering and misery in a country with the wealth to afford all its citizens a decent standard of living is when the nation's wealth is not being managed well and/or not used for the benefit of all its people. Gross mismanagement and corruption are rampant in this country. And when \$200 million is spent on a presidential helicopter while the

country's hospitals have no basic drugs such as quinine and polio vaccines for children it shows how priorities are totally up-side-down.

Zimbabweans are yet to enjoy peace, freedom and economic prosperity, the fruits of a just and accountable system of government. But that is as it should be because for sixteen years Zimbabweans have let ZANU-PF ride roughshod over them.

Those who are masters of their own destiny have inherited this earth and all the riches God adorned it with. But those who elect to remain helpless victims of other people's avarice and folly will inherit the beggar's crown — the begging bowl and worse!

Benin

Benin: New Prime Minister Outlines Government's Priorities

LD1404225196 Paris Radio France International
in French 2130 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An interview with the prime minister of Benin, Adrien Houngbedji, follows. Jean-Luc Aplogan asked him what will be the priorities of the new government in Benin, especially in the economic domain:

[Begin Houngbedji recording] The priority of this government will, quite obviously, be defined by the president of the republic during the first cabinet meeting he will hold together with his ministers.

I believe, however, I can go as far as to say that my government is taking possession of the country, so to speak, like a new tenant would. The first thing a tenant does upon entering a house is to draw up an inventory of fixtures. I believe that this is likely to be done quite soon. Once that has been done I think the government will set down to work. Its tool, the document on which its work will be based, will be the program worked out by the head of state. He spelled out his guidelines in his book and during the [presidential election] campaign. You know what these guidelines are. They are to confirm the state of law, to reinforce it in our country — our country values this greatly.

I think the next priority will be to continue with the economic recovery of our country.

It seems to me that the third priority must be what was the weakness of the previous government — namely, the social dimension of our development. I think that all the ministers currently holding a post will strive to meet the needs of our people who want the fruits of the sacrifices that have been made to be shared fairly among all.

In that respect, it seems quite significant to me that the head of state has appointed a minister for planning and economic recovery who is also responsible for the employment commission, which implies that, in the mind of the president of the republic, the solutions to the employment issue are contingent on the funding issue, funding for these jobs. Therefore, I can say that the employment issue — of young people in particular — will be a top priority for the authorities.

In that respect, it is also significant that the head of state should have appointed a minister for health, social welfare, and women's affairs, which means that the government will pay more attention to the problems of those who are excluded or at a disadvantage.

It is also significant that there should be an Industry Ministry, a ministry responsible for small and medium-size companies.

These ministries are proof that the main concern of the incumbent government and of the head of state will be to look after the social dimension of our development. [end recording]

Benin: President Kerekou Meets With Mauritanian Defense Minister

AB1404154996 Cotonou Office de
Radiodiffusion-Télévision du Benin Radio in French
1930 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Mathieu Kerekou granted the very first audience of his new term of office to Mauritanian Defense Minister Abdallahi Ould Abdi at the Presidential Palace this morning. The Mauritanian defense minister is here to discuss with the head of state the prospects of bilateral cooperation in all areas possible. Most importantly, he was bearer of a message from Mauritanian President Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to the Beninese head of state. After the audience, we asked the Mauritanian defense minister what the contents of the message were and here is the answer he gave us:

[Begin Abdi recording] The message concerns the permanent consultations and coordination of efforts among the leaders in the subregion. During the audience, His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou spoke to me about the excellent relations between him and President Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. In return, he asked me to transmit his sincere and brotherly greetings to President Taya.

[Unidentified correspondent] You are the minister of defense, do you already have any idea about the nature of the military cooperation that will be between our two states during the next few years? Did you discuss this?

[Abdi] I know that the relations between Mauritania and Benin are excellent. They will be strengthened in all the areas, whether in the economy or the defense sector.

[Correspondent] Your country, Mauritania, has embarked upon the democratization process and even an electoral process. The people of Benin will be very happy to know how things are going on in your country.

[Abdi] In Mauritania, things are going on very well. There is no problem. The democratic process is going on normally. You just have to believe what the external observers say about Mauritania. This is so because in Mauritania, the democracy is taking place in a (?healthy climate). [end recording]

Soon after this audience, President Mathieu Kerekou joined the rest of the members of his government for the very first Cabinet meeting from which nothing has been heard up until now.

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: Chad's Kebzabo on Plans To Beat Deby at Elections

AB1704131096 Abidjan *FRATERNITE MATIN*
in French 16 Apr 96 p 16

[Interview with Saleh Kebzabo, president of the Chadian opposition National Union for Development and Renewal, by Eugene Kadet in Abidjan — date not given; first paragraph is *FRATERNITE MATIN* introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] With less than 50 days until the presidential elections in Chad, scheduled for 2 June 1996, potential candidacies are becoming increasingly clear. Among them is Saleh Kebzabo, president of the National Union for Development and Renewal [UNDR] for more than three years. In the opinion of this journalist who converted to computers, formerly with *JEUNE AFRIQUE* and *DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE*, and founder of *NDJAMENA HEBDO* in 1989, one must reckon with the UNDR and its candidates to the various elections awaiting Chadians this year. We met him recently in Abidjan where he was in transit.

[Kadet] Does the victory of the "Yes" in the constitutional referendum not sound like a defeat for you who called for a "No" vote?

[Kebzabo] The "yes" victory is such a small victory that nobody in that camp should openly celebrate. If somebody should express satisfaction over this, it should be the "No" camp, because we only campaigned for eight days. Added to this is the scarcity of our resources, which cannot be measured with those of the government and its allies. If you compare the resources used with the results obtained, one cannot say we had failed.

The second thing is that everywhere in Africa the Constitution has never been a great electoral issue. That is why all African Constitutions were adopted almost unanimously. Concerning Chad, however, such a consensus was lacking. People should not think that the result of the referendum reflects the exact balance of power between the opposition and the government. Much as those in the "No" camp will remain there during upcoming polls, the same cannot be said for those in the "Yes" camp because they are all not allies. In the "Yes" camp, one can find Idriss Deby, Kamougue, El-Bongo, Lamanat, and Lol Mahamat Choua, who are all candidates for the presidential elections.

[Kadet] What opposes all these political rivals to the Chadian head of state?

[Kebzabo] In fact, what initially opposed us is essentially tactical. Some people feel we must have the Constitution approved to get the democratic process going, while others say the Constitution must be rejected because it is a bad one. This is where our differences lie.

[Kadet] Will the breaking up of political parties — about 60 parties — and the numerous candidates to the presidency not further weaken the opposition in its quest to conquer power?

[Kebzabo] I am probably going to surprise you but I am one of those who encourage all good candidates to run for election. The more candidates there are, the lesser the chances of Deby getting elected.

[Kadet] You have quite a paradoxical approach.

[Kebzabo] We often reason like the Westerners by saying there are too many candidates, and so on. We are in Africa where, as you know, voting is based on tribal, village, ethnic, clan, and regional basis, before being national. Especially in a country like Chad, which has been in war for about 30 years, where people need a refuge of security in the face of all their problems, this refuge of security can only be their tribe or region. When I say the more candidates there are, the lesser Deby's chances of winning, it is because each good candidate is going to carry along his electorate with him, and this is going to be a loss for Deby. On the other hand, if we were to agree to designate two or three candidates, there is no guarantee that one candidate's supporters would be mobilized for another candidate who is not from their region. This is quite an African reality. If we have six, eight, or ten good candidates who can mobilize their respective region, then Deby, who does not have any electoral stronghold and is from a less populated region, it is more likely to be eliminated in the first round. This means that candidates who would be going to the second round would be able to mobilize their various regional electorates in accordance with coalitions to be set up. As far as we are concerned, we are in the process of discussing with various candidates to ensure that we already reach some agreement for the second round.

[Kadet] Does the democratic process initiated by President Idriss Deby generally respond to our expectations?

[Kebzabo] Chad is a country that has many problems. Obviously, President Deby did not initiate this democratic process from his own free will. He might have made some pledges before taking over power, and might have given some guarantees of pursuing democracy although he himself is not a eager democrat. It took a strong and independent press, an engaged civil society,

and some determined political parties supported by external powers to get Deby to improve upon his democratic conceptions. This democratic polish seen from outside, however, should not totally hide the domestic problems of crimes, assassinations, and violations of public freedoms.

Liberia

Liberia: Koromah Says Agreement Reached With ECOMOG To Deploy Forces

*AB1804185096 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After 11 days of looting, skirmishing, bombardment, chaos, and anarchy, another attempt at a truce is being made in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. The [word indistinct] of the interim government, specifically, Alhaji Koromah of ULIMO-K [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Koromah] and Charles Taylor of the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] say they have reached an agreement with peacekeeping forces of ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] to deploy throughout the city in exchange for the withdrawal of militias from the various factions. Fighters of ULIMO-K and the NPFL have been laying siege to the Barclay Training Center [BTC] barracks for days in the hope of laying hands on wanted ousted ULIMO-J commander Roosevelt Johnson. Previous agreements along similar lines have had little or no effect on the situation. On the line to Monrovia, Robin White asked Alhaji Koromah what was different about this deal:

[Begin recording] [Koromah] On the government's part, all irregular armed men will be withdrawn from the city, and government security forces will halt all attempts to pursue the fighters within the BTC, to give way to the peaceful release of the hostages. So what is happening right now is that this package is being implemented... [pauses] there is currently a meeting underway at the American Embassy between the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] delegation and representatives of the groups in the barracks.

[White] So for your part, you have agreed not to mount anymore attacks on the Barclay Training Center?

[Koromah] Well, we are only carrying out military activities to stop the armed men from getting out of the Barclay Training Center every morning, coming to town (?with war), and wreaking havoc on the city.

[White] But, will we now see your forces pull back from the Barclay Training Center and ECOMOG forces move there instead?

[Koromah] Well, we can only hope that ECOMOG forces will implement that portion of the agreement which we have been calling for. As a matter of fact, [words indistinct] in this town, and our forces have, in fact, since yesterday moved far away from the BTC.

[White] Are you still insisting that Roosevelt Johnson should surrender to you?

[Koromah] We have not dropped the charges, but he does not have to surrender to us directly. He can surrender to those he feels comfortable with, who want to intervene.

[White] Is there more fighting still to come or do you think you've now solved this problem?

[Koromah] Well, I will tell you something, none of us like this fighting business. We are hoping that this fighting can stop. We are hoping that the Liberian people can have peace. We have halted all military activities, but we are only praying that ECOMOG... [pauses] Whatever the reason that this field commander has for not deploying, I hope God will touch his mind and his heart so that he can deploy around the BTC, at least to prevent these people from coming out, then we can go on with the discussion.

[White] Some people say that, you know, after you have solved this problem with Roosevelt Johnson and his Krahn militias, then you and Mr. Taylor might fall apart again and start fighting each other.

[Koromah] No, I don't have any intention of fighting Taylor and Taylor knows that it will be a useless exercise to try to fight me, because for five years we were doing it and nothing came out of it. He does not have the capacity, the capability to do anything to me, and neither do I, so I don't think this would be the case. [end recording]

Liberian faction leader, Alhaji Koromah. Well, as of now, that meeting at the American Embassy hasn't yet begun. They are apparently still waiting for the delegates from the Barclay Training Center.

Liberia: Koromah Admits Followers Involved in Looting

*AB1904101096 London BBC World Service
in English 0600 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Intense efforts are still on the way to resolve the political crisis in the Liberian capital,

Monrovia. The institutions of the interim government's vice chairmen Alhaji Koromah and Charles Taylor, are trying to arrest faction leader Roosevelt Johnson on charges of murder. His precise whereabouts are unknown but forces loyal to him are besieged in the Barclay Training Center barracks in the city. Alhaji Koromah and Charles Taylor have agreed to withdraw their fighters if ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peacekeeping force deploys throughout the capital. He also said that they are trying to end the looting that has swept the city for the last 10 days. Alhaji Koromah told Robin White what they were doing.

[Begin recording] [Koromah] We have taken some measures into this looting business in Monrovia because when these things started, all of the armed robbers were let free, out of jail by the group in the barracks, and they were very happy about that, and they all mingled up with the undisciplined members of our group who were involved in looting. So what we did was to set up a special task force well armed and with radio sets in their hands, and then we gave to them public telephone numbers to call wherever there is trouble, and they have been doing very well, especially on the Bushrod Island, and we are spreading it out to the rest of the city to cut this looting, and it has stopped.... [pauses] (7it) has considerably reduced. We also gave stickers to be placed on vehicles of genuine motorists so that when your vehicle does not show the sticker we will know that you have looted the vehicle. We also arrested some 60-odd persons and put them in jail. So we are trying our best. We hope that by Monday people will start working again.

[White] So you are admitting that some of your people were involved in the looting?

[Koromah] Oh yes. You know, if you have a large group of people, even your children, some cannot be ruled, some are criminals. Definitely, we have some people among them who got a little excited over these goods, and of course they have been dealt with already. But definitely, the government cannot condone this and we are taking the necessary actions.

[White] Is there anything left to loot?

[Koromah] Yes. There is a whole lot left to loot, but it will not be looted. I can assure you, in the city of Monrovia, in the city center itself, there are a lot of places — the almost entire Bushrod Island, which is a commercial and industrial area. Orders are being given that anybody seen looting will be shot on sight. So there is a lot of things left for the benefit of people, and they will not be looted I can assure you. [end recording]

Mali

Mali: Government Spokesman on Extradition of Guinean Mutineer

AB1804213596 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1300 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Government Spokesman Bakary Konimba Traore held a news conference today. He was accompanied by Nouhou Diakite, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malians Abroad and African Integration. Four major points were raised at this news briefing. The first one related to the criteria for the allocation of the 300 housing units at Garantibougou, the second one was the issue of the extradition of Guinean Lieutenant Lamine Diarra and the violation of the Malian Embassy in Guinea, and the problem of the banning of Malian pilgrims from traveling to Mecca. The local newsmen asked, in particular, for more details on the Guinean issue. He is the explanation given by Mr. Diakite, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry:

[Begin Diakite recording] We need to go back to the 2 and 3 February events after which the second lieutenant sought refuge at the Malian Embassy. However, we must add that he did go to at least one other embassy before coming to ours. This other embassy was a Western one where he was turned away, he was not accepted. He, therefore, came to the Malian Embassy. Immediately he entered the premises, he introduced himself to one of the ambassador's aides and later to the ambassador himself, and then asked for Mali's protection. The ambassador informed us about this, and we immediately asked him to first inform the Guinean authorities, which he did by notifying them on the phone and in writing. Therefore, the two countries negotiated from that time till 9 February.

We must say that there are two fundamental issues here. The first one involves the life of a person, who had requested protection from a country, and the second one relates to the position of a government which is hostile to any act intended to forcefully overthrow a legally elected government. It is, therefore, important to take account of both the human and legal aspects of the matter. So we negotiated with the Guinean side, and it was when we were given the assurance that Lt. Diarra will be treated in conformity with international and Guinean laws, and that will be given all the necessary guarantees of a fair trial that the government decided to hand over the second lieutenant. [Words indistinct] guarantees comprising the written documents, which were given to us by the Guinean side, and also in the presence of the Red Cross, an internationally recognized authority. The handing over was, therefore, carried out under these conditions.

However, I must point out an incident which occurred during the handing over ceremony. We instructed the ambassador that there should be no guns or soldiers on the premises of the embassy, and that it should be done very discreetly. The ambassador, in compliance with these instructions, received a Guinean delegation together with the Red Cross. After the official discussions and exchange of diplomatic notes, the Red Cross delegation asked to hold private discussions with the [words indistinct], and they came back to inform the Guinean and Malian delegations that Lt. Diarra had agreed, and that he was leaving everything in the hands of God and the wisdom of those who decided to protect him all this time and hand him over. He asked to be allowed to get dressed and say his prayers. He, therefore, withdrew to the room that had been given to him all these days by the ambassador, and it was at this particular moment that the incident occurred. The second lieutenant went out through a hidden door and found himself on the roof of the embassy. This caused a commotion, and before anyone could reason with him, he had already jumped. When he jumped, the Guinean soldiers who had surrounded the embassy, [words indistinct], entered our embassy, grabbed him, and carried him off very violently. [end recording]

Niger

**Niger: CSN Head Issues Draft Decrees;
Referendum Stated for 12 May**

*AB1704125796 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1900 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, National Salvation Council [CSN] chairman and head of state, today issued the following draft decrees — a draft edict on the electoral code and a draft decree convening the electorate to a referendum on the Constitution of the Fourth Republic. According to the draft decree, the electorate is convened to a referendum on 12 May. The referendum campaign begins at midnight on 25 April and ends at midnight on 10 May.

The head of state also issued a draft decree on the composition of the Independent National Electoral Commission, which organized the January 1995 early parliamentary elections. It carried out its task to the great satisfaction of the nation and the international community. The CSN and the government have, therefore, decided to reinstate the commission to organize the elections which will be held during the transition period.

Nigeria

**Nigeria: Beninese President Arrives for Talks With
General Abacha**

*AB1804202596 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin Republic is in Abuja on a one-day visit to Nigeria. He was received on arrival by the head of state, General Sani Abacha, some ministers, and top cabinet officials. President Kerekou is accompanied on the visit by his ministers of foreign affairs, internal security, trade and tourism, as well as the president of that country's chamber of commerce. Radio Nigeria's (?State House) correspondent reports that the talks between Nigeria and Benin Republic is ending about now.

The head of state, Gen. Abacha, is leading Nigeria's team at the talks, while President Kerekou is at the head of his country's delegation. The two leaders will later address a news conference from the (Akionla Aguda) House after which President Kerekou and his entourage will leave for home.

It was President Kerekou's first official engagement outside his country since his assumption of office two weeks ago.

**Nigeria: Abacha, Kerekou To Open Border, View
Liberia, Other Issues**

*AB1904100596 Lagos NTA Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The common border of Nigeria and Republic of Benin which was shut about five weeks ago is to be reopened immediately. The decision was taken today in Abuja at the bilateral talks between Nigeria and Republic of Benin. The Beninese head of state, President Mathieu Kerekou led his country's side to the talks. Correspondent Chris Ngu has more:

[Begin recording] [Ngu] The talks which began shortly after the arrival of President Kerekou was on for about five hours. Apart from the decision to reopen the border of the two countries, President Kerekou and his host, General Abacha, reviewed developments between their two countries, on the west African subregion, and in the African continent. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the transition to multiparty democracy in Africa, particularly with the recently concluded legislative and presidential elections in Benin Republic. They also applauded the recent local government elections in Nigeria. Foreign Affairs Minister, Chief Tom Ikimi, on other views expressed by the two leaders:

[Ikimi] On Liberia, while acknowledging the sacrifices and the peacekeeping efforts of ECOMOG [Economic

Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group], the two leaders expressed anxiety over the recent escalation of the conflict and that conflict resulting in the unwarranted destruction of lives and property in Monrovia, which had hitherto been a safe haven. They called for restraint from all of those involved in the escalation of the conflict and urged the various factions to cooperate with ECOMOG in the interest of peace and stability for the people of Liberia and the subregion. They also called upon the international community to support the subregional efforts in Liberia by providing logistical and material assistance for ECOMOG.

On Sierra Leone, the two leaders noted with satisfaction, the progress so far made in the transition to multiparty democracy in that country. They urged the leaders of the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] to fully embrace dialogue and continue the process of peaceful negotiations already entered into with the government of Sierra Leone in order to bring about lasting peace, security, and development in that country.

[Ngu] The leaders renewed their commitment to the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] and agreed on the need for forging a program and more rewarding bilateral relations. President Kerekou, who arrived in Abuja a little after midday was making his first visit to Nigeria since returning to power in Benin as a democratically elected leader. He was accorded the usual protocol for visiting heads of state on arrival. President Kerekou has since left Abuja for his home. [end recording]

Nigeria: Ethnic Clashes Reportedly Leave 80 Dead in Northeast

*AB1504194796 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It has taken a week for the news to get out but it is now (?known) that up to 80 may have lost their lives in northeastern Nigeria in communal disturbances involving Fulanis and Karinjos in Taraba State. Our correspondent, Abdulai Tasiu Abubakar, telexed this report:

The fighting between the two tribes broke out in the town of (Karim Lomino) after a Fulani man tried to rape

a Karinjo woman. The rape attempt reportedly failed but then the man then slashed one of the woman's hands. This led to serious clashes between the two tribes during which houses were reportedly burned to the ground and a number of people died.

The police commissioner of Taraba State, Alhaji Musa Yahaya, said that 26 people had been killed in the clashes. However, independent observers suggest that the figure is closer to 80. Reports also say that many of the wounded, who were taken to hospitals in the surrounding areas, are in a bad state as there are no medical supplies to treat them. A number of people have also been displaced and many are said to be hiding in the hills and caves which surround the village.

Early today, when I visited the area, there was a heavy security presence. Police have been brought in from the neighboring states of Bauchi and Adamawa to help the Taraba State police to beef up security. All my attempts to get to the village itself failed as the police had completely cordoned off the area and refused to allow anybody through. News trickling into the surrounding villages, however, suggest that the fighting is still continuing. State officials deny this and say all is now calm. The residents in the surrounding villages remain anxious and are afraid that the clashes may spread.

Nigeria: Rivers State Head Denies Critics Abducted During UN Mission

*AB1904112596 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The administrator of Rivers State, Lieutenant Colonel Dauda Homo, has called for factual reporting by journalists on national issues. Col. Komo told State House correspondents in Abuja that journalists owed it a duty to the nation to be credible in their reports. He denied reports that the state government abducted its critics from Ogoniland during the visit of the UN fact-finding mission to present a false picture to the delegation.

The administrator stressed the need for the state to be left alone to move ahead with other developmental issues. He said that Ogoniland had better road network than some other areas. Col. Komo reiterated the government's determination to open up rural areas to the construction of roads and the provision of electricity.

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